

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 24. 1708.

Review. **M**Y mad Man seem'd to quarrel with our new A^t of Parliament last Review, but I hope, he shall satisfie you, that he is not for discouraging Privateers.

Mad Man. Now you are making excuses for me, mad Men can always make their Party good with the World; for my Part I desire no Peace with them; I say, I do not like that Law in the least; had the House been all Bedlamites, they would never have made such a Law; our Taking the Bullion from the *Spaniard* is a Loss to them, that is confess'd, but this A^t of giving the Money to a Parcel of T A R R S, a meer Crew, a few Fellows, that if they were not of my Class before, will certainly be so now, at least till the Money is spent; and this at a

Time when the Nation is in such Exigence for Money; I say, there is no Policy in it, nor indeed any Manner of Comparison between the Service and the Reward— Two Millions of Money to 4 or 600 Sailors — Does this look like a Nation in their Wits?

Rev. Hugh Lunatick: you will bring all the Town upon your Back, all the Railers at the Admiralty will be upon you, all the Fitters out of Privateers will bait you, and if you go into *Wapping*, the Seamen's Wives will stone you— They tell you, this is the only Way to make Men fight; now the Men of War will look out, the Seamen will fight like mad, like mad, and it will be the Life of the War—when all they catch is their own—And before they did nothing.

M. A.

M. An admirable Satyr upon the People! Is not this libelling *England*? Your lame, hobbling True Born-Englishman—As a learned Scribler that is mighty able to mend it, lately sell'd it, is a Fool to this. Horrid Scandal! I am sure the Wives of *Wapping* ought to stone the Authors of such a notorious Scandal—What, do nothing? The eamen not fight, but when they are to get the Money? —What, nothing for their Country? English Seamen not fight for their Country, but for the Money? Nothing for the QUEEN? Not fight for their QUEEN? Nothing make them fight but getting the Money themselves, and all the Money, too? Mercenary English Men. The very Act is a Satyr upon the Nation, taken in this Sence, but much more upon the Seamen! Mercenary D—s! What nothing make them fight but the Money—Nothing but ALL the Money, and ALL to themselves? 'Tis certainly an unreasonable Booty, and such extraordinary Things ought to have been excepted, the Seamen and Officers should have been nobly rewarded—But to give ALL to them, the Circumstances make it intollerable—The Gift is too great for the Nation to give, or the People to take; the Kingdom cannot spare it, the Persons that are to have it, do not know how to use it or improve it; —If a mad Man has an Estate, you take it away from him; to give such a Quantity of Money among Seamen, is mad in it self, and will only make them mad in the Use; and therefore you should let Things be done in Proportion, this is out of all Rule, nor did ever any Nation in the World do the like.

Rev. I do confess, the Quantity of Money is in Part lost to the Nation, those poor, hardened, fenceless Creatures seldom bringing any home with them, nor will they be capable of making themselves the richer with it there; and to this the Act wants only an Order, that all Bullion in Specie should be brought to *England*, and that then the People that had the Claim should enjoy it.

M. I tell you, they cannot enjoy it, you will send them all to my Chamber if they get it, too much Money will make them mad, they cannot enjoy it, and they'll be as mad with it in *Wapping*, as at *Jamaica*.

Rev. I cannot help their Madness, they won't be all so; there's a great many honest sober Fellows among them, and that will send it home to their Wives, and make their Families rich with it; and this will encourage the Seamen, and encourage the Merchants of our Plantations to fit out Privateers—I tell you, this very Act of Parliament, and this very Example will make such Fleets of Privateers be fitted out by all our Plantations there, that the Spaniards will be ruin'd, if they hold out the War, they will not be able to peep out of their Ports, nor carry their Goods from Place to Place; and when they can find no more Vessels at Sea, they will joyn into Fleets, and insult their Coasts; it is the only Way could have been taken with the French, and if it had been done four Years ago, they had never made such Havock of our Trade as they have done.

M. I like it every where, but in this Case of such a Freight of Silver, for it renders the Advantage less than it would have been; if the Enemy had got such a Booty from us, it had not been our Loss only, but it had been a Supply to their publick Occasions, and serv'd them against us—But that Half of the Advantage is lost— And had you but got the Bullion for the publick Use, tho' you had given the Whole to the Seamen in Annual Payments of Interest, or in Quarterly Payments, it had been better for them; the Nation had gain'd the Bullion to circulate in Trade, and the Government had obtain'd a needful Supply for the next Years War; could have fought the French with their own Weapons, and been able to have given a little Breath to our own Country, on whom the Burthen, however chearfully we bear it, lies heavy enough.

Rev. I confess, there might, if the Case had been consider'd, have been some Ways and Means found out to have given us some Ease, and yet to have let the Sailors have had the full Recompence of their Labour and Hazard.

M. I doubt not, but the Parliament would have had some Consideration of a Case like this; for as it is, it is throwing away a vast Advantage; when Heaven has put it into our Hands, which no Nation in the whole World but Ours would do, and leaving

leaving it all to be consum'd by the Luxury and abominable Madness of the Seamen—Were all this Bullion brought home to England, coyn'd at the Tower, apply'd to the necessary Uses of the War, and the full Interest of it settled by Act of Parliament upon the Officers and Seamen that took it, according to their just Proportions—Would it not be a thousand Times of more Advantage to the Government, and to the Men themselves? — A few of them that would be mad in spight of all the Care the Government could take of them, would sell

them, and burn the Writings, as the Sailors once lighted their Pipes with Exchequer-Bills; but the Generality of the Men will leave them with their Wives for Subsistence while they are abroad, and thus the whole Nation would be better'd by the Booty, and going to the West-Indies would be courted by our Seamen, as much as it has been shun'd heretofore——If this be not good Advice, and a wholesome Project, tho' it comes out of Bedlam, let all Exchange-Alley make a better if they can.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Remaining Part of the Representation of the Episcopal Ministers, &c. of Scotland, should have been inserted in our last, but that we had not Room. In this we have therefore given the Reader another Part of it; which is as follows.

" WE proceed with all Submission
" to call in question, and impugn
" the Relevancy of the Libel, which tho'
" enforced with the present Circumstances
" of the Country as threatned with an
" Invasion; Yet it's contended, that the
" Qualifications and Acts subsumed upon
" are no ways relevant for inferring the
" Conclusion libell'd:

" As to which, the 1st. in Order is the
" 16th Act of the Meeting of the Estates,
" ordaining all Ministers within this Kingdom to pray for King William and Queen
" Mary, as King and Queen of this Realm,
" of which Act we are libell'd as Contraversies, because we do not, as is alledg'd,
" pray for her Majesty Queen ANN E.
" It's answer'd, (1.) That the Persons for
" whom publick Prayers are order'd to be
" made by the said Act are dead, and the
" Act must die with them in consequence.
" (2.) It's invidious for our Pursuer to bring
" our Prayers into the Accusation, seeing
" he cannot alledge against us any Words
" or Expressions, that bewray Contempt
" of Authority or Disrespect to their Persons. We pray for the whole Royal

" Family. We are none of those who despise Dominions, or speak Evil of Dignities, and therefore cannot conceive upon what Ground this Part of the Accusation is founded against us, especially seeing there is no Form of Prayer in Relation to this Particular imposed by any Law, and where there is no Law, there can be no Transgression.

" As to the Act of Parliament 1693, ordaining all Ministers and Preachers of the Gospel to take the Allegiance, and subscribe the Assurance. It's answer'd, (1.) That it would appear to mean such only as are settled in Charges, and enjoy Benefices, and we are the more warranted to say so by the Act of Recognition, that enjoys the taking of them to Queen ANNE, obliges only them that are in publick Trust, Civil, Ecclesiastick or Military, which reaches not the Case of the Defenders, who cannot be supposed to have any Trust, when they have not so much as a Legal Toleration; and whatever were the Sence of the Act 1693, it is out of Doors, being limitted to the Persons of K. William and Q. Mary; And even of those that are in Trust by Profession of Benefices, it's known, there are several that have never qualified themselves in the Terms of the Law, the Government being so far indulgent as to supersede the Execution of a Law in some Cases, rather than to impose upon weak and

and tender Consciences of any, particularly of those of the Ministerial Functionaries. And therefore it's not to be imagined, that the Magistrates of this City (in Behalf whereof we are not wanting in our Prayers to Heaven), will give their Countenance to this Libel, that proceeds upon the Stretching of Laws beyond their true Meaning against us, who enjoy no Benefit under the Government. And tho' we cannot alledge any Law for these Meetings, yet we have good Reason to plead, that there is no Law against them; for these Laws that are urged against Meeting Houses, can never be interpreted to their Prejudice, but by stretching them beyond their Intent; for the Act 22d. Anno 1695, frequently made use of against us, Entituled an Act against intruding into Churches and Benefices, we humbly conceive the Meaning and Design thereof only to be the dispensing of Episcopal Ministers of their Churches and Maisters, that the Presbyterians might have free Access to them, so as nothing can, according to the Letter of this Law, be construed an Intrusion on the Part of the Episcopal Minister, but the entering into these Churches (which were once declared vacant) without a Legal Call. But it was far from the Thoughts of the Government or Parliament under that Head, to comprehend the Exercise of the Ministry by People of Episcopal Perswasion in any other Place, and thereby to exclude the Ministers and People of that Judgment, from the Benefit of Ordinances, and Opportunity of Sacraments; and this is the more plain, that never any Law could be procur'd for obliging the People under Penalties to resort to the Presbyterian Preachers, and to receive the Sacraments from them, which was natural for them to demand. And it is further evident, that the Design and Intent of these Acts was never level'd against these private Meetings in little Houses, because the QUEEN in Her most Gracious Letter, Febt 4th.

1703, considers Meeting Houses, as having a tacit Allowance, ordering them to be protected whilst they live decently and regularly as good Christians and Subjects, and in so doing, that they be protected in the peaceable Exercise of their Religion, and in their Persons and Estates, according to the Laws of the Kingdom. In the Possession of which Favour, we have contynued hitherto by Virtue of the Authority foressaid, and was homologated by the Parliaments that have sitten ever since, who never quarrelled these Meetings, nor made any Laws against them. And we are confident, that we have done nothing either in the said Meetings or otherwise, that should deprive us of this Liberty, and therefore do claim the Continuance of the said Favour. And that all Process against us may cease, till Her Majesty's further Pleasure hereanent be signified, it being not usual for Royal Favours once granted to be recall'd, unless the Conditions stipulated were by the People violated and broken, which cannot justly be here alledg'd.
 As to the neglecting of Publick Fastes and Thanksgivings, which is the 3d. and last Qualification of the Libel. It's answer'd, That they are not usually directed to us or other Preachers in Meeting Houses; and particularly the last Proclamation for a Fast was only directed to Ministers and Churches, who only can be challeng'd for Neglect thereof, if any such there be. And therefore our not observing them publickly in our Meeting Houses cannot be construed a Crime or Fault; yea in such Cases we are at a Stand how to carry, lest the calling together our Hearers on such Occasions may be thought presumptuous; and give Offence even to some in the Government.

Not having Room to insert the Whole, the Reader may expect what remains in our next.